

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 PA-01 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 NEA-10 OES-09 NSC-05 H-01 DOTE-00 /160 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2965
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - SYG COREA PRESENTS PROPOSED AGENDA
TOPICS FOR UNCTAD V

1. DURING CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL GROUP COORDINATORS, AUGUST 4, UNCTAD SYG COREA OUTLINED A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR UNCTAD V THAT WOULD COVER ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF UNCTAD ACTIVITIES. COREA SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED TO MAKE PROPOSED AGENDA SELECTIVE--AS REQUESTED IN TDB RESOLUTION 154(XVII)--BUT THAT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO HIM WHICH ISSUES SHOULD RECEIVE GREATEST EMPHASIS AT UNCTAD V. REITERATING HIS HOPE THAT UNCTAD V WILL DEVELOP PROPOSALS THAT WILL HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE DDIII DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE 1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA, COREA SUGGESTED THAT THE UNCTAD V AGENDA CONTAIN 10-12 TOPICS, AND THAT UNDER EACH ITEM, DELEGATES BE ASKED TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE SINCE UNCTAD IV AND THEN DECIDE WHAT SHOULD

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BE DONE IN THE FUTURE. COREA SAID HE PLANS TO SOON RELEASE HIS PROPOSED AGENDA IN WRITTEN FORM (TD/B/L.507) AND HOPES THAT CAPITALS WILL CONSIDER HIS IDEAS AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM AT THE 18TH TDB.

2. BELOW IS OREA'S PROPOSED AGENDA AS OUTLINED ORALLY AT THE AUGUST 4 CONSULTATIONS.

FIRST ITEM - COREA SAID SECRETARIAT IS DEVELOPING A PROPOSED GENERAL TOPIC FOR PLENARY DEBATE, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT "THE EVOLVING PATTERN OF CHANGE IN WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONS." (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH COREA DID NOT SAY SO, THIS TOPIC APPEARS LIKELY TO REFLECT SECRETARIAT'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON INTERDEPENDENCE OF TRADE, FINANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, AND COULD PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR THOSE WHO ADVOCATE MAJOR REFORMS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS. END COMMENT.)

OUTLINED BELOW ARE COREA'S SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

COMMODITIES - REVIEW PROGRESS SINCE UNCTAD IV IN ESTABLISHING IPC AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO FACILITATE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF IPC. COULD SET TIMETABLE FOR TAKING ACTION ON ASPECTS OF IPC WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED, I.E., MEASURES TO EXPAND LDC PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITY PRODUCTS; MEASURES TO IMPROVE AND ENLARGE COMPENSATORY FINANCING FACILITIES FOR SHORTFALLS IN LDC EXPORT EARNINGS, ETC.

MANUFACTURES - TAKE STOCK OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE UNCTAD IV IN THE MTN, IN IMPROVEMENT OF GSP SCHEMES, AND IN WORK ON RBPS. FOCUS ON MARKET ACCESS AND PROTECTIONISM AS ISSUES OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO LDCS. DEVELOP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR OPENING DC MARKETS TO MORE MANUFACTURED EXPORTS FROM LDCS WHICH--COREA SUGGESTED--MIGHT BE MAJOR THEME OF UNCTAD V.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY - REACT TO OUTCOME OF UNCTAD NEGOTIATIONS ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CODE, AS WELL AS TO ONGOING WIPO EFFORTS TO REVISE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY CONVENTION. ALSO COULD LOOK AT MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLED MANPOWER AMONG LDCS, AND THE REVERSE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ("BRAIN DRAIN") PROBLEM.

MONEY, FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT - STATING THAT THIS ISSUE HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT IN UNCTAD, COREA SUGGESTED THAT UNCTAD V LOOK AT FOLLOWING CLUSTER OF PROBLEMS: (A) HOW TO ACCOMMODATE GROWING GAP BETWEEN CREDITS THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND NEEDED TO FINANCE LDC BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICITS BY ESTABLISHING BETTER MATURITY PATTERNS AND, POSSIBLY, BY SETTING UP A NEW "INTERMEDIATION FACILITY"; (B) EXAMINATION OF FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE CONCEPT OF INTERDEPENDENCE; (C) REVIEW OF HOW INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS

HAVE RESPONDED TO TDB DEBT RESOLUTION; AND (D) REVIEW OF EFFORTS MADE IN OTHER FORA TO REFORM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM.

SHIPPING - NOTING THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT COVERED AT UNCTAD IV, COREA CITED THE FOLLOWING AS IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT UNCTAD V: (A) ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES; AND (B) OTHER MEANS OF INCREASING LDC PARTICIPATION IN WORLD SHIPPING. (NOTE: COREA DID NOT REPEAT NOT MENTION EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION.)

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COUNTRIES - TAKE STOCK OF WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE UNCTAD IV AND CITE COURSE OF ACTION FOR ASSISTING THESE DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE.

EAST/SOUTH TRADE - NOTING THAT THIS ITEM IS ALWAYS ON CONFERENCE AGENDA, COREA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UNCTAD V COULD GIVE "NEW ORIENTATION" TO EAST/SOUTH COOPERATION.

ECDC - UNCTAD V -- IN COREA'S VIEW -- COULD PROVIDE "MAJOR THRUST" FOR PUTTING ECDC INTO NEW GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES - COREA SUGGESTED THAT UNCTAD V CON-

SIDER STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF UNCTAD FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES:

(A) ITS ROLE IN THE UN AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND
(B) THE WIDER QUESTION OF HOW UNCTAD'S ROLE COULD EVOLVE
IN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MTN AND OTHER
NEGOTIATIONS WHICH AFFECT THE "EVOLVING PRINCIPLES AND
RULES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM." (COMMENT: THE
LATTER POINT REFLECTS WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN SECRETARIAT
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THAT AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE MTN--WHICH IS EXPECTED
TO OFFER LITTLE TO THE LDCS--IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO
LAUNCH MAJOR REFORM OF WORLD TRADING SYSTEM. END
COMMENT.)

3. ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS - COREA SUGGESTED THAT GROUPS
BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AT TDB WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT
UNCTAD V STRUCTURED IN SIMILAR MANNER AS UNCTAD IV. HE
SAID SECRETARIAT HOPES TO RESTRICT VOLUME OF DOCUMENTS
BY FOLLOWING UNCTAD IV PROCEDURE OF PREPARING ONE PAPER
FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM AND AVOIDING SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: MISSION WILL SEND COPY OF COREA'S PROPOSED
AGENDA (TD/B/L.507) TO EB/IFD/ODF AND IO/IEP AS SOON
AS IT IS RELEASED. MISSION OFFICER UNDERSTANDS THAT COREA
HAD HOPED TO RELEASE IT AUGUST 4, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT
FINALIZED IN TIME DUE TO DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SECRETAR-
IAT ON WHICH AGENDA ITEMS SHOULD BE GIVEN PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS. IN RESPONSE TO COMPETING PRESSURES FROM HIS
DIVISION CHIEFS AND UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK FOR FORTHCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL
AGENDA ITEMS, COREA HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO PROPOSE
THAT THE 18TH TDB DEVELOP A FAIRLY WIDE-RANGING UNCTAD V
AGENDA, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SCOPE FOR FOCUSING ON IN-
DIVIDUAL TOPICS THAT APPEAR MOST PROMISING AS THE CON-
FERENCE APPROACHES. REACTING TO CRITICISM THAT UNCTAD IV
ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE OUTSIDE THE AREA OF COMMODITIES,
COREA OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT UNCTAD V WILL HAVE A SIG-
NIFICANT IMPACT ON A BROADER RANGE OF ISSUES THAT ARE
IMPORTANT TO THE LDCS AND THUS EXERT A MAJOR INFLUENCE
ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN THE 1980S.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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